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Montana high school students to take ACT on Saturday

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FOR RELEASE SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Approximately 1,800 Montana high school students, or roughly 23 per cent of all Montana high school seniors, will gather at 18 centers throughout the state Saturday to take tests in English, mathematics, social studies, and natural sciences, according to Leo Smith, Montana State University registrar and state coordinator of the American College Testing program.

The Montana students will be taking the examinations Saturday along with about 80,000 other high school seniors in 14 states. How well the students do in the tests will determine at what level they will be admitted to college classes next fall, their eligibility for scholarship aid, and in some cases, whether they will be admitted to college at all.

The students will be the first to participate in the new ACT program, headquartered at the State University of Iowa, where their answer sheets will be sent for scoring on two high-speed electronic "brains," which will provide individual and school reports on the tests at the rate of 6,000 answer sheets per hour per machine.

The ACT tests are designed to provide comparable data on all high school seniors seeking entrance to colleges in the participating states, regardless of where they live or attend school, Smith said. The total score on the four-test battery will yield an indication of each student's general academic ability and provide a clue to his potential for college success.

Smith said that basic policies affecting the wide-scale testing program are determined by a committee of coordinators in the 14 states. E. F. Lindquist, director of the Iowa Testing Program at the State University of Iowa for the past 29 years, is director of research and development for ACT.

(more)

Results of the tests will be used by participating colleges for admission and placement of students, for granting scholarships, loans, and other awards, and for counseling purposes, Smith explained. The test scores will be made available to the high school students themselves/ ^{and} to their advisers to help in making sound college and vocational choices.

A student who has not registered for Saturday's test may still take the test by presenting himself at a test center, or he may register to take a similar test to be given February 27, Smith said.

All Montana institutions of higher learning are participating in the ACT program, Smith reported. States besides Montana that have inaugurated the program are Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. California, Nevada, and North Dakota will begin their participation in the program early in 1960, and several additional states are expected to join the program by the time of the second test date in February, Smith said.

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